

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03059 291625Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CPR-03 CA-01 VO-05 FBIE-00
SS-15 NSCE-00 /072 W
-----018550 291641Z /45

O 291623Z JUL 78 ZFF-4
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2723
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIF, CS
SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ARRESTED FOR
SHOPLIFTING

REF: A. KETTLEWELL/HAGE AND KETTLEWELL/SHAMWELL TELECONS
7/28; B. KETTLEWELL/SCHREIBER TELECON 7/29

1. SUMMARY: COSTA RICAN AMB TO ISRAEL VARGAS AND FIRST
SECRETARY GUTIERREZ WERE ARRESTED FOR SHOPLIFTING BY
NASSAU COUNTY POLICE EVENING JULY 28. PER DEPT ADVICE,
USUN INFORMED POLICE VARGAS AND GUTIERREZ NOT ENTITLED
TO DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. BOTH HAVE BEEN RELEASED
ON BAIL. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING CONFIRMS INFO PROVIDED DEPT BY TELEPHONE LATE
JULY 28 AND MORNING JULY 29. AT 9:45 PM JULY 28, USUN WAS
INFORMED THAT COSTA RICAN AMB TO ISRAEL VARGAS AND FIRST
SECRETARY MISS GESELLA GUTIERREZ, BOTH EN ROUTE HOME
FROM ISRAEL, HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY NEW YORK NASSAU COUNTY
POLICE (NCP) ON CHARGES OF SHOPLIFTING. NCP WERE
ASSISTED IN ARREST BY DEPARTMENT STORE (KORVETTES)
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DETECTIVE AND ENSUING SEARCH TURNED UP \$40 WORTH OF
MERCHANDISE AND KEY TO NEARBY TEMPORARY STORAGE LOCKER.
LATER WHEN OPENED CONTAINED ADDITIONAL \$377.00 WORTH OF
GOODS. VARGAS AND GUTIERREZ WERE THEN TAKEN TO NCP HQS.
VARGAS WAS IN POSSESSION OF COSTA RICAN DIP PPT WITH US
VISA ISSUED BY AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV VALID JANUARY 1978 TO
1980. I-94 FORM ISSUED FOR THIS TRIP VALID JULY 3

THROUGH AUGUST 5, 1978. GUTIERREZ DID NOT HAVE PPT IN HER POSSESSION ALTHOUGH AMB VARGAS CLAIMED SHE THE HOLDER OF DIP PPT WHICH WAS AT HOME OF AMB VARGAS' BROTHER, WHERE VARGAS AND GUTIERREZ TEMPORARILY STAYING. VARGAS TOLD POLICE THE TWO HAD ARRIVED IN THE US ON JULY 3 AND HAD MADE BRIEF TRIPS TO NEW JERSEY AND MASSACHUSETTS, THEN RETURNED TO NEW YORK. IT WAS VARGAS' INTENTION TO DRIVE FROM NEW YORK TO COSTA RICA IN HIS AUTOMOBILE WHICH HAD ARRIVED EARLIER BY SHIP IN NEW YORK.

3. AFTER TELEPHONING ABOVE INFO TO DEP (IO/UNP - HAGE AND L/M-SHAMWELL), USUN DUTY OFFICER RELAYED DEPT OPINION TO NCP THAT VARGAS AND GUTIERREZ WERE NOT REPEAT NOT ENTITLED TO DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY UNDER IN-TRANSIT PROVISIONS FOR DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF 1961 VIENNA CONVENTION. DEPT SUGGESTED VARGAS BE ADVISED TO CONTACT COSTA RICAN CONGEN IN NEW YORK OR COSTA RICAN UN PERMREP. NCP INFORMED DUTY OFFICER THAT VARGAS HAD IN MEANTIME ALREADY CONTACTED HIS CONGEN AT AROUND 10:50 PM.

4. NCP OFFICIAL (SGT. COSTELLO) INDICATED THAT AT NO TIME HAD VARGAS AND GUTIERREZ SHOWN ANY HOSTILITY OR OTHERWISE ACTED UNCOOPERATIVELY. USUN RECEIVED NO FURTHER CALLS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT LATER THAT EVENING NOR EARLY AM JULY 29.

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5. IN FOLLOW-UP AM JULY 29 WITH NCP, USUN WAS INFORMED VARGAS AND GUTIERREZ WERE RELEASED ON BAIL PENDING COURT APPEARANCE. THIS INFO WAS IMMEDIATELY TELEPHONED TO DEPT (ARA-SCHREIBER). YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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TAGS: PDIP, CS, IS, US
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